

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 A.M. on February 14, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Benjamin Hodge- absent  
Representative Ted Powers- excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Resnick, National School Boards Association  
Senator Wysong  
Representative Terrie Huntington  
SuEllen Fried, trainer  
Alex Tranin, student (no testimony provided)  
Aishlinn O'Connor, student (no testimony provided)  
Kate O'Neil, student (no testimony provided)  
Gina McDonald, Kansas Children's Service League  
Kathy Cook, Kansas Families United for Public Education  
Val DeFever, Schools for Quality Education  
Cheryl Semmel, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas  
Jennifer Schwartz, Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (written testimony only)  
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools (written testimony only)  
Terry Forsyth, KNEA  
Pat Eakes, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns  
Laura Kaiser, President - Kansas Congress of Parents & Teachers, Inc.

The Chairman introduced Mike Resnick who spoke to the Committee about "*Reauthorization of NCLB*". (Attachment #1)

A brief question and answer session following the presentation.

### **HB 2310: School districts; policies against bullying**

Senator Wysong spoke to the Committee in support of **HB 2310**. (Attachment #2)

Representative Huntington spoke as a proponent of **HB 2310**. (Attachment #3)

SuEllen Fried spoke to the Committee as a proponent of the bullying bill **HB 2310**. She stated bullying is a form of child abuse and has extended to the internet and all manner of media. (Attachment #3A)

Alex Tranin, a sixth grader, spoke to the Committee about his experiences of being bullied. He told members of the Committee of how he had to change schools because of the bullying. (Verbal testimony only)

Kate O'Neil, a student, told Committee members of the social exclusion and how it had become worse in middle schools and she also had to transfer to a different school. (Verbal testimony only)

Aishlinn O'Connor, a student, told Committee members that students don't always mean to be bullies and that they don't recognize the consequences of their actions. (Verbal testimony only)

Gina McDonald spoke to the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2310** and stated the bill would begin the process of defining bullying. (Attachment #4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 14, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Kathy Cook testified as a proponent of **HB 2310**. She stated every child has a right to feel safe and secure in their school, classroom and at after school activities. (Attachment #5)

Val DeFever spoke to the Committee about bullying and cyber-bullying and as a proponent of **HB 2310**. (Attachment #6)

Written testimony for **HB 2310** was accepted from Cheryl Semmel (Attachment #7), Jennifer Schwartz (Attachment #8), and Diane Gjerstad (Attachment #9).

Written testimony was received from Pat Eakes as a proponent of **HB 2310**. (Attachment #10)

Terry Forsyth spoke to the Committee as a neutral on **HB 2310**. (Attachment #11)

The hearing was then closed on **HB 2310**.

**HB 2447: Registration of charitable organizations, parent teacher associations exempt**

Laura Kaiser spoke to the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2447**. (Attachment #12)

The hearing on **HB 2447** was then closed.

The Chairman told Committee members that a Sub-Committee would be formed for **HB 2310**. That committee consisted of Representative Colloton as Chair; Representatives Crow, Donohoe, Loganbill, and Trimmer. The Chairman also asked that a report be due the following week.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2007.